



LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

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I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures enabling coordination of effort among law enforcement agencies to protect public lands and BLM administered resources.

II. OBJECTIVE

To maximize the use of available resources for protecting BLM-administered lands and resources and for providing for public safety; and to ensure cooperation among all entities concerned with, and having jurisdiction over, crimes and law enforcement activities on the public lands.

III. AUTHORITY

- A.** 43 U.S.C. 1733.
- B.** 446 DM, Chapter 1.

IV. COORDINATION WITHIN THE BLM

A. Contacts with Field Offices

BLM law enforcement officers (LEOs) must maintain close liaison with Field Office Managers and field personnel in performing their assigned duties.

B. Beyond Geographic Area of Responsibility

Whenever any BLM-related law enforcement activity is required beyond the geographic area of responsibility of a State Office, the Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) of such office shall, without delay or in advance of the anticipated activity, personally brief the SAC of the affected State. The receiving SAC will conduct the law enforcement activity or authorize such activity. If the receiving

SAC conducts the activity, the SACs shall agree to a time period for completion, not to exceed 30 days. The Director, OLES must be informed of such coordination issues.

C. Request for Law Enforcement Details or Assistance

1. Interstate requests for law enforcement assistance with investigations, law enforcement operations, training, or other law enforcement activities or details will be made from one State Office to another through the SACs of the affected States. Supervisory and SAC approval is required before personnel are made available to the requesting State. All law enforcement personnel or services will be furnished on a priority basis, determined by circumstances of the violation, urgency of the request, and the overall need to provide continuing law enforcement coverage in given geographic areas.
2. Interagency requests to the BLM for assistance with investigations, law enforcement operations, training, or other law enforcement activities or details will be coordinated by the OLES through the affected SACs. Supervisory and SAC approval is required before personnel are made available to the requesting agency. All law enforcement personnel or services will be furnished on a priority basis, determined by circumstances of the request, urgency of the request, and the overall need to provide continuing law enforcement coverage in given geographic areas.
3. Emergency response requests from local rangers across a State line do not need to be coordinated through the SAC.

D. Task Force Operations

1. When the SACs of affected States determine that a particular issue or investigation requires a long-term commitment of law enforcement personnel from two or more States or other agencies, creation of a task force may be required. Depending on the magnitude and duration of the operation, the Director, OLES may, in consultation with the affected State Office, form an advisory group to participate in the management of the operation. This group shall operate under the direction and supervision of a group leader assigned by the affected SACs in consultation with the Director, OLES.
2. When such operations are anticipated, an operations plan will be prepared that sets forth, at a minimum, goal(s) of the operation, participants, protocols, responsibilities, milestones, and a timetable for completing respective tasks. The charter will be submitted to the Director, OLES for concurrence.

V. OTHER AGENCY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

A. Law Enforcement Contracts

When it is determined that assistance is necessary in enforcing Federal laws and regulations relating to the public lands and their resources, the FLPMA authorizes the offering of contracts to appropriate local officials having law enforcement authority to enforce such laws and regulations.

B. Law Enforcement Agreements with State and Local Agencies

In connection with the administration and regulation of the use and occupancy of the public lands, the FLPMA authorizes cooperating with the regulatory and law enforcement officials of any State or political subdivision thereof in the enforcement of the laws or ordinances of such State or subdivision. This cooperation may include reimbursement for expenditures incurred in connection with activities which assist in the administration and regulation of use and occupancy of the public lands. Reimbursements shall be made only upon written documentation that the requested services have been provided. Only State Directors (SDs) are authorized to enter into such agreements on behalf of the BLM when the agreement provides for the delegation of State/local law enforcement authority to BLM law enforcement officers. BLM LEOs must not accept appointments as reserve State and local officers without the approval of the SAC and the SD. The SAC will assist the SD in coordinating and overseeing such agreements. Reimbursable law enforcement agreements will not be utilized for encouraging "good will" and friendly relationships, subsidizing local governments, or providing law enforcement services to adjacent private or other agency lands, unless such other agencies or private land owners are also reimbursing parties to the agreement (H-9260-1, Chapter XI, Appendix A&B). Reimbursable Law Enforcement Agreements may be used to provide necessary law enforcement services to the public lands when:

1. The services requested are of an extraordinary nature and are not those law enforcement services to which a land owner would normally be entitled. An extraordinary service would be in the category of a special patrol requested by the BLM, rather than response to a reported violation or a crime in progress.
2. The public lands of a given location are an attraction that receives visitation primarily from persons who reside outside the county in which the attraction is located, and the visitation is at such levels as to represent a major impact to the local law enforcement agency's normal operation.
3. BLM LEOs are in need of certain support services such as radio dispatch, extra help for eradicating marijuana, aircraft services, etc.

C. Memorandum of Understanding with Other Federal Agencies

1. Cross-designation of law enforcement authority between the Department of the Interior law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Forest Service is authorized by Nationwide Interagency Agreements. These agreements allow for immediate cross-designation for law enforcement officers employed by the various agencies when responding to emergency incidents of the other agency, when a request for such assistance has been made by Incident Command System officials. Other situations which may warrant cross-designation of law enforcement authority may only take place through implementation of local operational agreements. Only SDs and SACs are authorized to enter into such agreements on behalf of the BLM. The SAC will assist the SD in coordinating and overseeing such agreements. The SDs will

not delegate this authority. When local operational agreements have been established, any law enforcement officer who is designated in the agreement may respond to a request for assistance from another signatory agency, and shall have the law enforcement authority of the requesting agency (H-9260-1, Chapter XI, Appendix C). These agreements should include the following:

- a.** A listing of the laws and/or regulations that provide law enforcement authority to the agencies involved;
 - b.** Titles and locations of managers-in-charge;
 - c.** A list of multi-agency personnel;
 - d.** Location and description of lands involved;
 - e.** Request and approval procedures; and
 - f.** Cost reimbursement requirements and procedures.
- 2.** A law enforcement officer of another agency will not be cross-designated by the BLM unless they meet the following standards:
 - a.** Is a Federal employee;
 - b.** Is a permanent employee who is assigned law enforcement responsibilities on a full-time basis;
 - c.** Is individually authorized to make arrests and carry firearms;
 - d.** Has successfully completed a basic course of instruction at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center or has had any other basic law enforcement training approved by the Department's Office of Law Enforcement and Security;
 - e.** Is successfully completing at least 40 hours of "in-service" law enforcement training each year;
 - f.** Has been provided training by the BLM in the Federal laws and regulations that relate to the public lands and the law enforcement policies and procedures of the BLM;
 - g.** Regularly qualifies with an issued or approved firearm at least twice per year; and
 - h.** Is not prohibited from possessing a firearm by 18 U.S.C. 922 - misdemeanor conviction for domestic violence.
- 3.** Receiving or providing for cross-designation of law enforcement authority with Federal agencies other than Department of the Interior or U.S. Forest Service requires notification and concurrence of the Director, OLES.

VI. HANDBOOK REFERENCES

- 1.** H-9260-1, Chapter XI, Appendix A, B, & C